



Docket No. 3629-016

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**Applicant(s):** Kevin R. Walz et al.**Serial No. :** 10/672,830**Examiner :** Kiliman**Filed :** September 26, 2003**Group Art Unit:** 1773**For :** IMPROVED LAMINATE MATERIALS FOR FURNITURE
AND FURNITURE PIECES INCORPORATING THE SAMECommissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131**

Sir:

I, Kevin Randall Walz, hereby make the following declaration:

1. I am a co-inventor of the above-identified application and I presently reside at Via di San Francesco a Ripa, 18, 00153 Rome, Italy.

2. As discussed in my application, one of the advantages of the furniture described and claimed here is that its elements are thinner, providing a light, airy, attractive unique esthetic appearance further enhanced by its skin of natural wood layer. A further advantage is that the resulting furniture is lighter and therefore easier to move and carry. For example, the chair shown in Figs. 2A and 2B is made from two types of laminates A and B. Other materials that could be used to make a similar chair would be solid wood (wood planks) and plywood. However, the resulting chair would be much heavier and, in order to provide a comparable strength and load bearing ability, its elements would have to be much thicker, giving the chair an undesirable bulky look. The following table illustrates these points:

| Chair Element | Present Invention (Inches) | Solid Wood (Inches) | Plywood (Inches) |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Legs 102 | $\frac{13}{32}$ " | $1\frac{1}{4}$ " | $\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| Cross-pieces 104 | $\frac{13}{32}$ " | $1\frac{1}{4}$ " | $\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| Seat 106 | $\frac{3}{32}$ " | 1 " | $\frac{1}{2}$ " |
| Backrest 108 | $\frac{3}{32}$ " | $\frac{7}{8}$ " | $\frac{3}{8}$ " |

Total Weight (lbs)

13 1/25

*=Laminate A; **= Laminate B.

3. The same considerations apply to other types of furniture, such as the cocktail table of Figs. 3A and 3B. I estimate that a cocktail table made in accordance with this invention weighs about 5 while a similar table made of solid wood or plywood would weigh about 30 and 40 respectively.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of TITLE 18 of the United States Code and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dated: 25 March, 2005By: 

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